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SACRAMENTO REPORT

# Republicans Call for Repeal of Rumford Act

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District  
The California State Platform of the Republican Party was adopted in the State Capitol, in Sacramento, on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 6, 1966, as part of the work of the Republican State Convention. I was a member of the Platform Committee.

The "plank" on civil rights was the last item on the agenda that day. More time was devoted to this subject than to any other and more witnesses presented their opinions before our committee than appeared on any other platform subject.

The Civil Rights "plank" or section of the platform consists of three paragraphs. The first two paragraphs are very similar to corresponding portions of the Democratic Party State Platform. The third and final paragraph reads as follows:

"The Republican Party pledges to support:

"1. Programs providing equal educational opportunities for all Californians.

"2. Programs of labor, industry and government leading to equal employment opportunities.

"3. The repeal or amendment of the Rumford Act of 1963 and its replacement or amendment by constructive legislation which protects the free choice and constitutional rights of all citizens.

"4. Programs, both governmental and private,

based on education and mutual understanding, which can lead to the solution of the serious housing problems of our minority group citizens."

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Please notice that subparagraph No. 8, above there are two key phrases. These are: "repeal or amendment of the Rumford Act" and "replacement or amendment." These are the heart of our platform.

The action of the Republican Party in California in adopting the above plank was taken largely to reflect the views of the majority of the registered voters of California who voted by a tremendous majority in favor of the famous "Proposition Fourteen" which, by Constitutional Amendment, threw out the Rumford Act. However, the California State Supreme Court then ruled that the vote of the people of California in favor of Proposition Fourteen was unconstitutional.

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All of the Justices of the California State Supreme Court did not vote to nullify the will of the people but it is curious to observe that those who did so vote were appointed by Democratic Party Governors. Justice Stanley Mosk did not vote, giving as his reason the fact that he was Attorney General at the time the Rumford Act became a law.

How our California Supreme Court arrived at its decision is beyond any logical explanation. Many lawyers contend that their action was, in itself, an unconstitutional act.

The Rumford Act takes its name from the name of the author of the law, Assemblyman Byron Rumford, Democratic Member of the Assembly from the 17th Assembly District. Assemblyman Rumford lives in Berkeley, is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and has been, since graduation, a pharmacist. At one time he owned two pharmacies. At present, he is a candidate for the State Senate. For many years he has been chairman of the Public Health Committee.

When Rumford's bill came on the floor of the assembly for a vote in 1963, I voted "No."

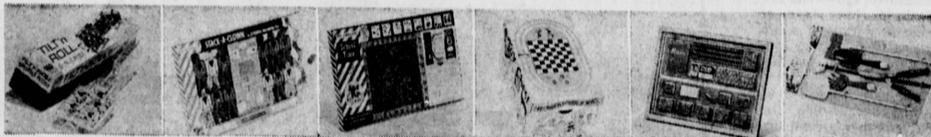
In 1967, assuming that I am re-elected, I will vote to either repeal or amend the Rumford Act for the same reason that I voted against its passage in 1963. This has nothing to do with racial or political prejudice or bias. I simply believe that those who own property should be allowed to sell or refuse to sell, or rent or refuse to rent their own property, for any reason or no reason at all.

Part of the civil liberties for which our ancestors fought were property rights, which are definitely human rights.

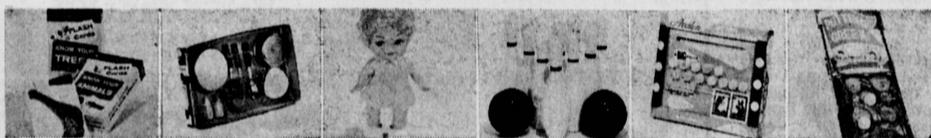
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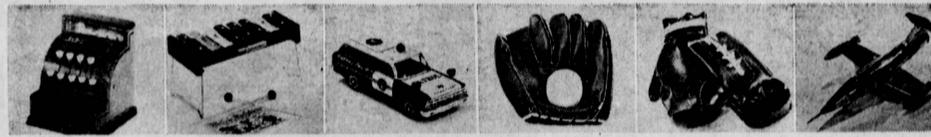
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